

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



September 20, 2001

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor  
District of Columbia  
One Judiciary Square  
441 Fourth Street, Northwest, Suite 1100  
Washington, D.C. 20001

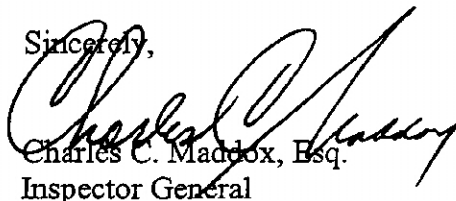
**RE: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY REPORT**

Dear Mayor Williams:

Enclosed, for your information, is a press release dated September 18, 2001, issued by the United States Attorney concerning a matter investigated by Senior Special Agent Ed Martin of this Office and Special Agent Mary Jo Ervin of the Federal Bureau of Investigations. The press release reported that Betsy B. Tibbs, Executive Director of the D.C. Concerned Citizens, Inc. (DC CCC), pled guilty to one count of Fraud in the First Degree before United States District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson of the Federal District Court in Washington, D.C. Tibbs faces a maximum penalty of ten years of incarceration and a fine of not more than \$5,000 or three times the value of the property obtained or lost. Tibbs directed a fraud scheme against the District of Columbia from September 1995 through January 1997 (\$20,000 of grant money spent for commemorative items and close to \$30,000 for the benefit of herself and other family members). Sentencing is scheduled for November 28, 2001.

If you need any additional information, please feel free to contact me on (202) 727-9501 or David Bowie, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, on (202) 727-1039.

Sincerely,



Charles C. Maddox, Esq.  
Inspector General

Enclosure

CCM/gm

cc: District of Columbia Councilmembers



U.S. Department of Justice

**Roscoe C. Howard, Jr.**  
*United States Attorney for the  
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center  
555 Fourth St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001*

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## PRESS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, September 18, 2001

For Information Contact Public Affairs

Monty Wilkinson (202) 307-6045

**70 Year-Old Woman Pleads Guilty in Fraud Scheme Against the District of Columbia**

Washington, D.C. - United States Attorney Roscoe C. Howard, Jr., District of Columbia Inspector General Charles Maddox and Federal Bureau of Investigation Assistant Director in Charge Van A. Harp announced that Betsy B. Tibbs, 70, of Hyattsville, Maryland pled guilty today to one count of Fraud before United States District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson. The count to which Tibbs pled guilty charged her with directing a fraud scheme against the District of Columbia from September 1995 through January 1997. Tibbs faces a maximum penalty of 10 years of incarceration. She is scheduled to be sentenced on November 28, 2001.

The government's evidence established that Tibbs was the Executive Director of DC Concerned Citizens Caucus (DC CCC), an organization with offices located at 5700 Georgia Avenue, N.W. In late October 1995, she obtained for DC CCC, a \$60,000 grant and \$32,000 loan from the District of Columbia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). The loan and grant were intended to provide initial funding for a housing program, whereby DC CCC was to purchase and renovate houses for purposes of re-sale to low or

moderate income purchasers. Tibbs made numerous commitments to DHCD in which she promised to spend the grant and loan funds for specified purposes associated with the housing program.

Despite her promises to DHCD, Tibbs spent the funds for a host of purposes unrelated to the housing program. Tibbs spent over \$20,000 of the grant and loan funds for a commemorative calendar and other commemorative items and close to \$30,000 for the benefit of Tibbs and her family members, including daughters, granddaughters, a son, grandson and daughter-in-law. Some of these expenditures occurred the very day she deposited the DHCD funds into DC CCC's account, and almost all occurred within a short period thereafter.

During the summer of 1996, DHCD sought an accounting from Tibbs as to how DC CCC spent the funds and that in response to these requests, Tibbs submitted a variety of false and fraudulent documents to DHCD, including copies of checks which were never issued, other fraudulent memoranda and receipts and false time sheets.

United States Attorney Howard, Inspector General Maddox and Assistant Director in Charge Harp commended Special Agent Mary Jo Ervin of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Special Agent Ed Martin of the District of Columbia Office of Inspector General. They also commended Assistant United States Attorney Mark H. Dubester who handled the prosecution.